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Book Reviews

Greek Lands and Letters. By FRANCIS GREENLEAF ALLINSON AND ANNE C. E. ALLINSON. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1909. Pp. xvi+472. \$2.50 net.

The authors have undertaken "to interpret Greek lands by literature, and Greek literature by local associations and physical environment." They have wisely limited their survey to those portions of the mainland and the islands which may easily be visited from Athens as headquarters. The book therefore is designed primarily to help the traveler in seeing Greece, but at the same time the reader will gain much knowledge of Greek literature, history, and life.

Some idea of the scope of the work may be gained from the chapter headings, among which are the following: "The Widespread Land of Hellas," "Piraeus," "Athens," "The Acropolis of Athens," "Old Greece and New Athens," "Attica," "Eleusis," "Aegina," "Megara and Corinth," "Delphi," "From Delphi to Thebes," "Thebes and Boeotia," "Thermopylae," "Argolis," "Arcadia," "Olympia," "Messenia," "Sparta."

The illustrations are numerous and of rare excellence and beauty. There are also good maps. The appendix is an index by chapters of the quotations from Greek authors and other writers. A good index completes the volume.

It would be difficult to enumerate even topically the large amount of information found in this volume. Still more important is the literary quality of it: fluent and very readable in style, apt in quotations, excellent in translations, broad and discriminating in judgment. In short, the authors have executed their work in conformity with the Greek type of art.

A misconception of modern critics concerning the Greek love of nature and its expression in literature has led the authors to make the needed correction that in fact "Greek literature shows a pervasive love of nature." The explanation is that

modern critics, ignoring all historical perspective and assuming as a procrustean standard the one-sided and sophisticated attitude that has played a leading rôle in modern literature, announced as axiomatic that ancient Greek poets had no feeling for nature and found no pleasure in looking at the beauties of a landscape. This superficial idea still keeps cropping up. . . . The concrete embodiment of natural phenomena and objects in some Nature-Divinity often obviated the necessity for elaborate description and summarized their conceptions as if by algebraic formula. The sympathetic feeling for nature becomes more and more apparent in lyric poetry and the drama until in Euripides there emerges, almost suddenly, the modern romanticism. . . . The Greeks stopped short of a sentimental self-analysis. As they accepted their pedigrees from gods and heroes, so they accepted their environment

of beauty. They were not unlike the child, content to betray by stray word or caress his unanalyzed admiration for his mother's face.

Such are the Homeric "tags," "saffron-robed," or "rosy-fingered," or Sappho's "golden-sandaled" Dawn. To enumerate the list of these word-pictures from Homer to Theocritus would require too much space.

The outlines of antiquity still stand out sharply in Greece, so that the traveler has a unity of impression of ancient life left upon his mind by a visit to Greece, little disturbed by mediaeval or modern civilization. Things modern often only help to illustrate ancient life. Study of Greek literature and travel in Greece are to be recommended because "no other nation," as Mr. Ernest Myers has said with particular reference to the age of Pindar, "has ever before or since known what it was to stand alone immeasurably advanced at the head of the civilization of the world."

Many people fail to realize the similarity between ancient Attica and the United States in welcoming foreigners as residents, as a haven for fugitives, and in freedom of religious worship. Even foreign deities were worshiped in Attica. The land was another "melting-pot" where the "old and the new, the foreign and domestic" were cast "to reappear in fairer form, stamped with the Hellenic hall-mark." Greece is rich in lessons for us if we but seek for them. The present volume will help even one who is unacquainted with the Greek language to appreciate the literature as well as the land. As a companion to the traveler or aid to the student of literature the book should receive a hearty welcome.

C. F. CASTLE

Demosthenes: Philippics I, II, III. With Introduction and Notes by GILBERT A. DAVIES, Professor of Greek in the University of Glasgow. Cambridge: University Press; New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1907. Pp. xxxiv+126. 60 cents net.

The author has prepared a book primarily for school use and has purposely avoided in his notes and discussions textual and other problems. The introduction presents concisely the earlier history of Macedonia and political status in Greece, together with Philip's work in the development of Macedonia.

The typography is pleasing to the eye, and the notes are scholarly and to the point. The book should be found useful to many teachers and schools.

C. F. CASTLE

Grundriss der Geschichte der klassischen Philologie. By ALFRED GUDEMAN. 2d ed., enlarged. Leipzig: Teubner, 1909. Pp. vi+260. M. 5.

The author, who happily unites American birth and earlier education with German university training, served for some years as a college professor in this